Print Form

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Standard Gypsum Mine Surface Mining Permit No. 102 Revision 1 (SMP No. 102R1)

Lead Agency: Riverside County Planning Department

Contact Name: Evan Langan, Project Planner

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Project Location: 25 miles northwest of City of Blythe, 10 miles west of Midland Rd. Riverside County
City *County*

Project Decription (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project (SMP00102R1) is a request to revise approved Surface Mine Permit SMP00102 to allow an approximately 59-acre expansion of an existing, 110.3-acre surface mine to include additional extraction of gypsum, as well as temporary stockpiling of excavated surface materials (overburden) for a period of 50 years. The proposed expansion would occur in two phases, with the first to occur through the year 2060, and the second, final phase comprising the last 10 years of the permit's approval through 2070. The expanded mine would comprise 169.5 acres of a total 611-acre Project site, with an average of 450,000 tons (maximum 900,000 tons) of material to be extracted annually. The total volume to be removed is estimated at 61 million tons over the lifetime of the mine. Following conclusion of Phase Two, the entirety of the mine, in addition to 21 acres outside of the footprint of proposed operations, would be "reclaimed" – restored in accordance with a revised Reclamation Plan, requirements of the Surface Mine and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and County Ordinance 555 – ultimately returning a total of 190.5 acres to open space, habitat and restored drainage courses.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Biological Resources: Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1 requires the Applicant to avoid special status plants with the use of exclusion zones where feasible and, where avoidance is not feasible, to collect seed or plant propagules for use with a mitigation and monitoring plan developed by a qualified biologist. MM BIO-2 requires preconstruction surveys for nesting birds during nesting season, and avoidance of active nests until young have fledged. MM BIO-3 requires that bats using a known bat roost at the mine be passively excluded prior to its closure. MM BIO-4 requires surveys be completed for Desert Kit Fox, American Badger, and Ringtail and that specific avoidance perimeters be adhered to around active dens. MM BIO-5 requires surveys for and avoidance of Colorado Valley Woodrat houses. MM BIO-6 requires the Applicant to acquire a USFWS Section 7 or Section 10 take permit for the Desert Tortoise. MM BIO-7 requires the Applicant to obtain appropriate resource agency permits for effects to wetlands and waters.
Archaeological Resources: Condition of Approval CULT-1 ensures that inadvertent discovery of archaeological material shall halt project activity and be reviewed by a qualified archaeologist.
Geology/Soils: MM GEO-1 ensures that measures from the slope stability report prepared for the project would be incorporated. MM GEO-2 requires the Operator to ensure compliance with all relevant MDAQMD wind erosion and fugitive dust control procedures.
Mineral Resources: MM MIN-1 requires blasting operations be conducted by a licensed blaster with a County permit.
Paleontological Resources: MM PALEO-1 requires a qualified paleontologist prepare a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

None known.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Army Corps of Engineers
California State Mining and Geology Board
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation